

(c) Availability of APL stocks from present 14 depots, from where only BPL stocks are issued, is not possible as these depots are mostly of smaller storage capacity.

Ban on import from Pakistan

4423. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan has banned import of sugar from India;
- (b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether India also propose to ban import from Pakistan; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, item-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir. However, as per information available, letters of credit opened till March 7, 2001 would be honoured.

(b) Pakistan Government imposed the ban on the import of sugar from India reportedly in view of the availability of adequate stock and price stability of sugar in Pakistan.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Fixing of silencers on aircraft and helicopters

4424. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have set up a Committee of experts and scientists to fix silencers on the engines of the aircraft fighters and the Air Force helicopters so that nobody can hear the aircraft sound on the ground;
- (b) if so, whether Government are also making an arrangement for

[26 April, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

non-visibility of the Air Force fighters on the enemy screen, while flying at any height;

- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

- (c) and (d) Do not arise.

Foreign Direct Investment in Defence Sector

4425. SHRI AMAR SINGH:

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government have decided to open defence related sectors to Foreign Direct Investment;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the approximate foreign funds likely to be generated as a result thereof; and
- (c) by when such a decision is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) No, Sir. (b) and (c) Do not arise.

Supply of Navy equipments by Russia

4426. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether transparency is not being maintained by the Russian companies in supplying Navy equipments to India as reported in the 'Statesman*' dated 5th April, 2001;
- (b) if so, whether Government's defence procurement norms are not followed by the various foreign countries; and
- (c) if so, Government's reaction on such defence procurement deals?